

**6<sup>th</sup> S. of Easter, Yr B.**

**6-5-18.**

**Working together, giving thanks together.**

One of the aspects of our readings today asks us to reflect on the difference between loving and liking. Over the years, I've come to realise that *loving* and *liking* are totally different. We like our friends. We like people with personalities that mesh with ours. Liking is easy. It kind of comes naturally.

But, Jesus, in this week's Gospel, pleads with his disciples for a much deeper engagement, - to love one another as he has loved them. Jesus wants members of his community to sacrifice for each other and for the world, – even if they aren't friends and have trouble getting along, That means listening to others' opinions, putting their needs ahead of yours, putting disagreements or personality clashed aside, and focussing on your common tie, - the Christian mission to make the world a better place, especially for the poor and all others in need of moral and spiritual support.

That can apply in a particular way to the Giving Thanks Together campaign you will be hearing about today. To live the mission Jesus has entrusted to us, our faith and our motivation need to be constantly nourished, - but that is possible only where the Church, in the shape of a Parish, is available to provide that spiritual nourishment; - where we can worship God together; be strengthened by each other and the Sacraments; listen to God's Word; and find ourselves challenged to reach out and love as Jesus did.

As a Parish we do that fairly well, and have good reason therefore to be thankful, but it needs working together, not only as volunteers in the various ministries we participate in, but in sharing the burden of keeping the Parish afloat financially, maintaining its facilities and supporting the services it provides. It is to that end that I ask you to listen to two of our parishioners, and the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee to say a few words.